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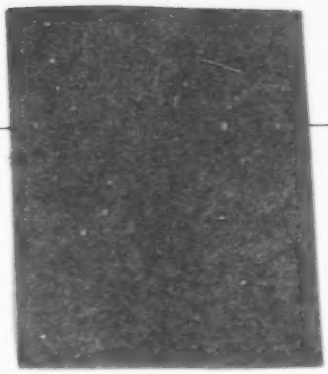

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LETTER DATED 12 SEPTEMBER 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a letter addressed to you by Mr. Omar Mustafa Almuntasser, Secretary of the General People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abuzed Omar DORDA
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 10 September 1997 from the Secretary of the General People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya addressed to the President of the Security Council

The international information media have reported a statement by the Director-General of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Conference on Disarmament meeting in Geneva in which he said that "Israel" refused to ratify the Chemical Weapons Convention because the Arab countries had not yet done so, adding that his country would ratify the Convention only after the Arab countries did.

The position of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya on this issue has always been clear and unequivocal, since it has stated that it is in favour of any measure that will promote the elimination of weapons of mass destruction in the world, including chemical weapons, and participated in the preparatory meetings for the drafting of the Convention. It has not signed the Convention, however, because the region of which it is a part contains weapons of mass destruction that are not subject to international inspection, namely the Israeli nuclear arsenal. Accordingly, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya is unable to deal with the Chemical Weapons Convention unless all weapons in the Middle East are taken into consideration.

"Israel" was one of the major signatories of the Convention and has exploited this "signing" on numerous occasions in order to create the impression that it seeks peace and favours the elimination of weapons of mass destruction; it continues to this day to call upon the international community to oppose those States it accuses of possessing non-conventional weapons.

The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya believes that such behaviour highlights the true intentions of "Israel", which, having at its disposal a formidable arsenal of nuclear weapons such as no other State in the region possesses, refuses to ratify the Chemical Weapons Convention, thereby showing the whole world that it is not content to limit itself to nuclear weapons but seeks, by equipping itself with every possible type of weapon of extermination, to assert its dominance over the States of the region and bring them into submission. It is equally obvious to all that "Israel" has never been serious when it said that it favoured the elimination of weapons of mass destruction.

The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya considers this refusal by the Israelis to be a negative development that can only lead to a heightening of tension in the Middle East region. It merely confirms the view held by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya that the region will not know peace so long as the Israelis do not change their aggressive policy and seek actively, by deeds and not by words, to diminish tensions in the region. As a first step they can place their nuclear facilities under the safeguards regime of the International Atomic Energy Agency and set a timetable for destroying their nuclear arsenal.

I should be grateful if you would bring this letter to the attention of the members of the Security Council and arrange to have it circulated as a document of the Council.

(Signed) Omar Mustafa ALMUNTASSER
Secretary of the General People's Committee
of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison
and International Cooperation